Marlboro County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
   - The future of the community:
   - Benefit w/long term goals includes the elderly fro all citizens
   - Better work that is productive and reliable
   - Higher per capita income – more disposable income which leads to a higher quality of life
   - Stimulate greater capital investments and higher wage scales – greater return to the community in education, socially all facets – pride, community achievement as a whole
   - Community – more jobs (more local employment better paying jobs and better quality of life)
   - Requires commitment
   - Less crime
   - Improved healthcare
   - Population growth
   - Increased tax base
   - Greater retention of productive citizens
   - Reduced need for support services
   - Attract better industry
   - Increased adult learning
   - More skilled work force
   - Better health
   - Higher income
   - Less crime
   - Better quality of life
   - Population growth
   - Increased tax base
   - Marketing advantage
   - Pride
   - Jobs creation/opportunities
   - Community cooperation in problem solving

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
   - Total commitment "collaboration" and support in the community
   - Early intervention
   - Family involvement
   - Home support
   - Outreach
   - Mentoring programs
   - Buddy systems
   - Constructive activities for youth
   - Community collaboration and focus
   - Strategies for closing the achievement gap
   - Truth rather than political correctness
   - Strategies for reducing the drop out rate

- Increase post secondary education
- Begin dual track in middle grades
- Recruit an retain a teaching force
- Better dialogue between public education and teacher training programs
- Increase access to technology
- Community support for equal funding issues (state support)

Strengths:
- Business partnerships
- After school (tutorial programs)
- Community support for total child
- Competent teachers
- Increase in National Board Certified teachers
- Outreach programs in the faith-based communities
- Adult education program
- Local technical college
- Home visitors (limited #)
- After school programs (limited)
- Business education partnerships
- Adult education
- Individual community efforts (ie churches, medical, ROTC, police, etc.)
- Northeastern Community College presence
- Volunteer programs/people
- Civic clubs, sororities and fraternities

Challenges:
- Infant mortality rate
- Outreach to young mothers and fathers
- Transportation
- Need more information about programs offered
- Increase family values
- Teacher recruitment
- Parent/teacher involvement
- Relationship building
- Constructive facilities and activities
- Breaking the cycle
- Need more certified teachers
- Literacy needs of the parents
- More public recognition of academic achievement
- Communication about what the district offers
- After school programs
- Increased collaboration
- Localized high school programs
- Nurture and educate parents
- Family friendly schools
- Involve citizens w/out children in schools
- Assorted effort to "sell" value of education to all citizens (business, retired community, etc)
- Speakers bureau involving

- Public library in schools
- Technology centers in schools
- Increase public speaking about schools in community
- Adult education programs
- Develop a community resource directory
- Support system for single parents
- Child care opportunities
- Educational programs geared to reduce teenage pregnancies
- Increase crime watch
- Better public relations/communicate the positive
- Educate the entire community about our needs

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
   - JROTC
   - Children's Defense Fund
   - Extra Curricular (sports)
   - Arts (Civic Center)
   - AP classes and satellite
   - CIS
   - First Steps
   - Head Start
   - New Perk Programs
   - Developmentally delayed programs
   - Marlboro Civic Center/Marlboro County education
   - Clemson Extension
   - SC State Extension
   - Business
   - DSS
   - CDC
   - Faith based tutoring
   - Inter agency council programs

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
   - Volunteers
   - Organize
   - Participation
   - Encourage
   - Donations